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Hongkong Daily Press.

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Hongkong, 18th August, 1903. [a1319-1]

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Hongkong, 10th June 1903. [a318]

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Hongkong, 31st October, 1902. [a949]

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[a607-1977]

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THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

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Our communications relating to the news columns should be sent to the Editor.
Correspondents must forward their names and addresses with communications addressed to the Editor, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith. All letters for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.
No anonymously signed communications that have already appeared in other papers will be inserted.
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BIRTH.
On the 30th March, at Kobe, the wife of HENRY A. Cox, of a daughter.

The Daily Press.
HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VUEX ROAD, CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.
HONGKONG, 8th APRIL, 1904

The advance of the British Mission into Tibet is being watched with the greatest interest all over the world. The "Roof of the World," as the country of the Dalai Lama has been not inaptly termed, is still the theme of general speculation and curiosity, all European travellers having been so jealously excluded from its capital that the progress of Colonel YOUNGHUSBAND's force is naturally followed very closely. The determined hostility shown to the British Government by the Tibetans for years past, which quite recently assumed an open form, has also contributed to the attention now bestowed upon developments in this remote region. The recent unveiling of a Muscovite plot to secure present predominance and future mastery of Tibet by entering into a secret treaty with the Dalai Lama, the supply of arms to Tibetan troops by the same agency, and the knowledge that Russia has been for years intriguing to acquire complete ascendancy over the whole of the Mongolian races of Asia, of course rendered it imperative that some action should be taken by the ruler of so many millions of Buddhists to come to a proper understanding with the spiritual head of that faith. Not only has Russia schemed to secure the absorption of Tibet into the Tsar's dominions, but some of the provincial Chinese authorities have also endeavoured to place all kinds of obstacles in the way of commercial intercourse between Tibet and India. Thus the Chinese Amban at Lhasa has consistently sought to keep up the dislike entertained by the Tibetan Lamas for British officials and the British Indian Government. The

sharp lesson just taught the hostile Tibetans by the British expedition has not, however, been without its effect on the Chinese Representative at Lhasa, or he has perhaps received peremptory instructions from Peking to assume a different attitude, for it seems the Amban has now written to Colonel YOUNGHUSBAND saying that he wished to meet him, but that the Dalai Lama refused to give him transport facilities. He was, however, now coming to Gyantse to meet him. This is satisfactory, for it serves to show a change of front on the part of the Chinese Government. As a matter of fact, it is the interest of China to see British influence dominant at Lhasa, and the Russians kept out of the country. The British Indian Government have no wish to extend their territory by the annexation of Tibet; all they desire is to establish direct commercial intercourse with the country and to prevent intriguing by any other Power in a State on the Indian frontier that should be in the most friendly relations with Calcutta. The Chinese Government have exactly similar aims, and it is equally their interest to do their utmost to check any attempt by Russia to establish a secret protectorate over a race which has for so long done homage as a tributary to the Dragon Throne. The looseness of the tie that has hitherto bound Tibet to China, however, has unfortunately given an opportunity to Russian agents to attempt to undermine the Chinese suzerainty and to convert the tacit mistrust entertained by the Dalai Lama of the Indian Government into active hostility, a feeling the Chinese Amban has done nothing to dissipate. Lord Curzon has accordingly been compelled to take action to neutralise Muscovite schemes and to convince the Dalai Lama that the Indian Government cannot be trifled with or floated. The Viceroy of India altogether declines to recognise that Russia has any *locus standi* in Tibet. Russia has disavowed the reported secret treaty, and she certainly has no right to make such an agreement with the tributary of the Emperor KWANG HSU, without first consulting that sovereign. It is difficult, therefore, to see upon what pretext Russia could intervene in the Tibetan trouble. It may be true that she has furnished arms to the Tibetan rulers, with the express purpose of fighting the British Indian troops, but that is hardly an act of which she would like to boast, or on which to found a claim. She has no trade with Tibet, and the Tsar has comparatively few followers of BUDDHISM in his wide dominions. For many years Russian emissaries have been assiduously labouring to seduce the Mongols from their somewhat shadowy and capricious allegiance to the Dragon Throne, in order to pave the way for the ultimate absorption of the whole of Tartary into the Russian Empire. The magnitude of Muscovite ambition has, however, overreached itself, and by its very breadth and all-embracing greed has at length aroused a storm in the Far East that will not easily be laid to rest. Meantime the British Expedition into Tibet will proceed to carry out its mission, which will, we trust, include the opening of the mysterious city of Lhasa to the outside world and of Tibet generally to trade and civilisation.

H.M.S. *Blenheim* is expected to arrive this morning.
Prince Pu Lun, on his way to the S. Louis Exhibition, after a great reception by the Chinese community at Yokohama, proceeded by the *Gaelic*, bound for San Francisco.

"The Koreans are bound hand and foot in an ocean of superstition," says the *Daily Mail*, which appears to be what the *Times* lately called "one of those amphibious journals which waits to see which way the wind blows." No wonder the traveller landing in Corea finds himself at sea, as a writer has observed.

A deputation of the Nottinghamshire and Yorkshire County Cricket Clubs met at Leeds last month, under the presidency of Lord Hawke, and decided to give a practical trial to the proposal to introduce the time limit into county cricket. A match will be played at Headingley on May 23 and 24 between the Nottinghamshire and Yorkshire eleven under a limit of four-and-a-quarter hours to each innings. The match is to be decided by the number of runs scored, not by wickets.

In all probability, says a home contemporary, the next but one of the Japanese will be as tall as the average European. It is the custom of sitting upon the ankles, instead of upon a chair, that explains the shortness of the Japanese leg. The arteries are kinked by the cramped position, and so the growing bones are not properly nourished. The Japanese spine is just of a length with the average European; indeed, we all differ in height rather by reason of leg than of back. The length of the spinal column is singularly constant amongst various individuals and races.

Two fatal Chinese plague cases were reported in the Colony yesterday, in No. 2 and No. 9 health districts respectively.

The following telegram to the *Asahi* will be read with interest.—Peking, March 24.—The German Minister to Peking is demanding a concession for a railway between Tientsin and Chingkiang, for which a concession has already been granted to Great Britain. The British syndicate has not commenced the work, and hence the German demand. The negotiations are in progress.

The French cruiser *D'Assas* left Brest on the 29th February for Algiers, where the four t.b.d.'s which she is to escort to the Far East had already preceded her. It has been found impossible to send the French submarines *Protee* and *Lynx* from Cherbourg to Toulon by rail, as the construction of the hulls is too slight to bear the strain which would be put upon them by the weight of the vessels. The torpedo-depot ship *Foudre* will therefore go to Cherbourg to ship them there for transport to the Far East. In a second voyage to the Far East the *Foudre* will take out the *Zigrette* and *Perle* from Toulon; and in a third voyage the *Ludion* and *Naiade* from Cherbourg. The *Naiade* will receive her accumulators at Saigon.

We have received a copy of the Act of Endowment of the Teikoku Gunjin Yungokwai (Association for the Relief of Those serving in the Army and Navy), just founded in Japan for the object of giving assistance to:—(a). Distressed families of men serving in the Japanese Army and Navy who are killed or die while on service; (b). Men serving in the Army and Navy who become cripples while on service, as well as the families of such men, in case of distress; (c). Distressed families of men serving in the Army and Navy whether at the seat of war or in fortresses, garrisons, etc., at home. The President of this Association is H. I. H. Admiral Prince Arisugawa, and subscriptions to this worthy cause may be received in Hongkong at the offices of the Yokohama Specie Bank, the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, or the Mitsui Bussan Co.

The S. Petersburg *Bourse Gazette* wrote last month:—"Since the beginning of its history America has inspired the liveliest feelings of friendship and admiration among Russians, and diplomatic and political expressions of these feelings have been continuous and constant. In Russian social circles there has ever been a veritable worship of the classic land of liberty, and Americans have always heretofore made Russian friendship the corner-stone of their foreign policy." The *Times* New York correspondent remarks:—"Veritable worship of the classic land of liberty" by that huge military bureaucratic barbarism which persecutes Jews, Finns, and Poles appeals perhaps to the American sense of humour, but to nothing else. The Russian Press, like Russian diplomacy, shows itself incapable of understanding American opinion and American policy, of which, as every American schoolboy knows, Russian friendship was never in any sense the corner-stone."

A telegram dated Honolulu, 16th February, says:—"During the past ten days the islands have suffered from the severest rainstorm known since records have been kept. In Honolulu over twenty-five inches of rain have fallen since February 6th. The heaviest twenty-four-hour rainfall during this period was 7.32 inches. The heaviest previous rainfall in any month during the past thirty years was in November, 1874, when 15.67 inches fell. The average annual rainfall in Honolulu during the past thirty years has been forty inches. During each of three nights during the past ten, over five inches of rain has fallen in less than twelve hours. The rain is estimated to have done damage to the amount of at least \$100,000, chiefly to roads and bridges. In many places heavy macadam was torn up by the torrents, and great boulders weighing hundreds of pounds were carried for rods. The rain has been from the south, an unusual quarter in these islands, and seems to have spent itself most severely on this island."

Rear-Admiral R. D. Evans, as commander-in-chief of the U.S. Asiatic fleet, wrote to the Navy Department before leaving for the United States, that desertion in his command had been reduced to a minimum, which he considered gratifying when the number of new men and boys sent to the fleet was considered. He said the worst drawback to discipline had been the excessive use of alcoholic drinks, both on liberty on shore and afterwards when smuggled on board ship. A large majority of the courts-martial on the station, which had been numerous, were traced directly to this cause. Rear-Admiral Evans said that he was more convinced than ever that it was useless to attempt to control this matter, and he expressed himself in decided terms against the present regulations which prevent men from having a reasonable amount of beer or light wines on board ship and force them into habits of intemperance on shore and to smuggle liquor on board ship. He recommended the establishment of canteens in the navy where beer and light wines may be sold to the men to be taken with their meals or when cooling ship. He was anxious that this system be tried for six months as an experiment to see what effect it will have on naval discipline. He made the statement in further argument of the establishment of the canteen in the Navy that in his command during the year a number of good men died from drinking shellie mixed with wood alcohol, men who would, in his judgment, be well and happy now if it had been possible for them to get beer or wine in place of the poison that killed them.

TELEGRAMS.

"DAILY PRESS" SERVICE.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.]

THE WAR DISAPPEARANCE OF JAPANESE FLEET.

SHANGHAI, 7th Ap., 12.45 p.m.

The Russian cruiser *Bayan* yesterday (Wednesday) stopped the Press steamer *Haimun* in the Chili Strait. It is learnt that the *Bayan* made a search for the Japanese fleet within a distance of thirty miles from Port Arthur, but failed to discover any of their ships.

REUTERS'S SERVICE.

THE WAR—PORT ARTHUR STILL OPEN.

LONDON, 5th April.

A Japanese destroyer engaged in scouting at Port Arthur has discovered a channel, available for the passage of ships, 130 yards wide.

THE TRANS-SIBERIAN RAILWAY.

LONDON, 5th April.

M. Khilkoff has returned to St. Petersburg to confer with the authorities. He says that the security of cars and locomotives on the eastern section of the railway has been remedied; west of Ickutsk ten trains, beyond Lake Baikal nine goods trains, besides passenger and military trains, are running daily in either direction. M. Khilkoff returns in a fortnight to supervise the construction of the circum-Baikal line.

ANTI-GOVERNMENT PLOT IN COREA.

LONDON, 5th April.

News from St. Petersburg says that the recent statements of an anti-Government plot in Corea are confirmed. The influential *Pedders' Guild* is involved. The main object of the plot is to overthrow the pro-Japanese Government and depose the Emperor.

FRONTIER NOTES.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

Wednesday, 6th April.

CUSTOMS PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Mr. Arlington, Kaichung, has been promoted Examiner and transferred to Soochow. Messrs. Husted and Xavier have been promoted Assistant Examiners and transferred to Canton. Mr. Adamson has been promoted Assistant Examiner at Taishan, and Mr. Sachan Assistant Examiner at Kai-chung. Mr. Chubb, in charge of Sham-chun, has been promoted to 1st class Tidewater, Mr. Pavelka, in charge of Lofong, to 2nd class Tidewater. It is probable that other transfers will take place along the Frontier shortly.

AGRICULTURE.

Peanuts have been planted the last week and also some cane. The farmers are mostly occupied in preparing the paddy fields, but no paddy has been planted as yet.

THE VEGETABLE FARM.

The New Territory Cultivation Company are not so active since Mr. F. Bishop (who lately took over the management of Connaught Hotel) gave over charge to a Chinaman. Lots of splendid vegetables, cabbage mostly, are simply going waste, the Chinese employees not caring. It is a pity the proprietors could not send some energetic European out. The soil has been got in fair order and ought to pay. The soil all around is generally favourable to the growth of most European vegetables. I saw a tomato the other day grown in a private garden which weighed 17 ounces. It was grown from Henderson's "Ponderosa" seed.

By kind permission of Lt.-Col. Tremonger and officers, the Band of the 93rd Burma Infantry will play the following programme of music at the King Edward Hotel during dinner to-night (weather permitting):—

March, "The Stars and Stripes for Ever."
Overture, "Romantic."
Selection, "The Tyrannical."
Cornet Solo, "Cradle Song."
Selection, "Reminiscences of Wales."
Waltz, "Reverie."
Intermezzo, "Endoria."
"God Save the King."

MENU.
Hors D'oeuvres
Anchovy on Toast.
SOUP.
Julienne.
FISH.
Boiled Fish and Mustard Sauce.
ENTREES.
Grilled Veal Chop and Mashed Potatoes.
Eggs Larded.
Lamb Chop en Aspic.
JOINTS.
Roast Leg of Mutton.
Cold Ham.
COUSIN.
Mince Pie.
SALAD.
Lettuce.
VEGETABLES.
Boiled Potatoes.
Fried Potato Cakes.
Cauliflower.
Green Peas.
SWEEETS.
Ginger Pudding.
Sponge Cake.
Vanilla Ice Cream.
Finger Cake.

WAR NOTES.

NORTHERN TELEGRAMS.

We take the following telegrams from the N.C. Daily News:—

Tokyo, 31st March.

In the engagement at Chongju on the 28th of March, five Russian officers were severely wounded, and three Cossacks killed and twelve wounded. Major-General Mischenko was present at the engagement.

The Russian attempt to neutralise Nowchwang has failed, owing to the British statement that it must be dependent on the withdrawal of the Russian troops.

The Russian administration at Nowchwang having issued preliminary regulations with regard to the military control of the port, the Foreign Consuls on the 28th of March asked their home governments for instructions on doubtful points.

Tokyo, 1st April.

It is stated on good authority that the Russian force between Chialiencheng and Fenghuangcheng has now reached about one army corps. Relays consisting of five or six men each are posted every one or two li between Chialiencheng and Antungshien.

The Russians are hastily erecting entrenchments in the Yalu valley with the object of keeping open their communications. Several have been finished at Antungshien, and five or six more are under construction.

[Chialiencheng is on the north side of the Yalu, opposite Wiji. Fenghuangcheng is about 35 miles north-west of Chialiencheng.]

Tokyo, 3rd April.

The Yalu is thawing. It is reported that the Russians have withdrawn from Shenchiyon, midway between Chongju and Wiji. The Japanese advanced guard has come into collision with the enemy at Thyolsan, north of Shenchiyon.

THE "YABYAG."

The *Japan Mail* reports:—"The raising of the *Yaryag* is said to be proceeding most successfully, but as the *Kokumin's* correspondent, by whom the intelligence is conveyed, speaks of 12-inch guns having been already raised from the vessel, his details are obviously coloured by his imagination. At all events 8 guns of sorts have been taken out of her. They are all said to be serviceable, and it is now certain that the ship can be saved. She will make an addition to the Japanese navy, since she is a fine protected cruiser of 6,500 tons, with a nominal speed of 23 knots."

SINKING OF ANOTHER JAPANESE STEAMER.

A telegram dated Chofoo, 29th ult., and reported to be received by the Japanese War Department, states that the small steamer *Hanyei-maru*, plying on the Chofoo coast, was chased on the morning of the 28th by Russian vessels and afterwards sunk. Two Japanese of the crew and seven Chinese were captured, while the master of the vessel and two seamen escaped in a junk and succeeded in reaching Chofoo on the 29th. It is stated that the Russian vessels numbered nine, including destroyers. A later report, issued by the *Asahi*, says the *Hanyei-maru* was a steamer of 75 tons, and at the time was chartered by the Chofoo correspondent of the Osaka journal, who used it with the object of watching the naval operations.

PORT ARTHUR'S DEFENCE.

The following (from the *Kobe Chronicle*) amplifies what we have already received by telegraph:—

The Commander of the fortifications at Port Arthur has issued a notice to the officers and men of the forts and to the inhabitants of the town which reads grimly and suggests the pardonable fears that are entertained by the people as the result of continued attacks by the Japanese. Addressing the officers and men of the forts and of the lines of defence, and also the inhabitants of the Province, the notice says that judging from the enemy's continued attacks the Japanese are doing their utmost to break through the Russian defence. Their intention evidently is to land on the peninsula and occupy the forts or to destroy the forts and retreat in their war-ships. It must be remembered, continues the proclamation, that the Japanese consider the taking of Port Arthur a question bearing upon the national honour. Up to the present the Japanese have realised the difficulty of their task. The inhabitants are informed that the fortifications will never be abandoned, and that the Commander will never give the order to retreat. There can be no retreat. It is necessary for all to be determined and to fight till death. There is no retreat, for on three sides of them is the sea, and their land retreat is cut off. If the defence shows courage the enemy will be defeated. The inhabitants of the peninsula are exhorted to be brave and earn everlasting renown.

JAPAN'S OBJECT IN THE WAR.

The foreign column of the Japanese Socialist organ, *Heimin Shimbun*, has an interesting article on the object of the war—whether it be empire expansion or the checking of Russian expansion and the preservation of Chinese and Korean integrity.

"Is Japan fighting," the writer asks, "merely for territorial expansion, or is she fighting for something else? From the beginning of the war it has been repeatedly stated by the Government that Japan was compelled to plunge into war with Russia in order to preserve the independence of China and Corea as well as her own. If a righteous war means a war without any recompense, Japan ought not to look forward to the possession of any piece of land in Manchuria or Siberia when she comes out victorious. We may depend on our Government, at least on our enlightened statesmen, to live up to what they profess, but it is extremely doubtful whether soldiers or pseudo-statesmen would be satisfied with a victory which brings no spoils. It was about

ten days ago that Mr. Oishi, a prominent leader of the Progressist party, spoke on the war at the general meeting of the party. He declared that when the war shall have proved victorious for us, we must take possession of the two provinces along the Amur River, as well as Liaotung Peninsula, in order to prevent the advance of the Russian army to the East again, and his speech was received with loud applause. It is no wonder to hear such a statement from the mouth of a statesman, if it is admissible that war is nothing but robbery and statesmen are nothing but robbers. But despoiling is so much against the idea expressed in the 'Declaration of War' by the Emperor, that no statesman would dare to insist on it in the face of the world. Is not the integrity of the Chinese and the Korean dominions the most prominent cause for which Japan is fighting? If so, it is an unfaithful and shameful act on our part to try to add a part of the Chinese dominions to our own. Moreover, we must oppose the idea of despoiling, as a matter of expediency, because it will bring us into a perpetual conflict with Russia instead of preventing her advance to the East. Suppose we have driven the Russian army out of Manchuria. Does it mean an end of the war? Not at all. The Russians will withdraw to Western Siberia and even to the other side of the Urals, if it is necessary, but they will never give up attempting to come back again. Will Japanese be so stupid as to take up the duty of gate-keepers at the Siberian frontier all the year round? We must remember that this duty will require hundreds of thousands of men and several millions of dollars. Therefore the only way for us to take is to recognise the authority of the Chinese Government in Manchuria and at the same time to induce the other Powers to take the responsibility of guarding Manchuria against Russian interference. If an equal chance for commerce and industry is given to all the Powers, they will not decline to share the responsibility with us. Whether the war turns out to be a righteous one or not may only be judged by the result. Let us hope that our Government may not be influenced by soldiers and short-sighted politicians so as to bring disgrace and disaster upon the nation by acting in contradiction to what it has professed before the world."

YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LTD.

The following is the forty-eighth report of the Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd. (Yokohama Shokin Ginko), presented to the shareholders at the half-yearly ordinary general meeting, held at the head office, Yokohama, on the 10th March:—

The gross profits of the Bank for the past half-year, including yen 555,245.551 brought forward from last account, amount to yen 7,215,219.731, of which yen 5,597,551.887 have been deducted for current expenses, interests, &c., leaving a balance of yen 1,617,667.844.

The directors now propose that yen 110,000,000 be added to the reserve fund, raising it to yen 9,320,000,000. From the remainder the directors recommend a dividend at the rate of twelve per cent. per annum, which will absorb yen 720,000,000 on old shares and yen 300,000,000 on new shares, making a total of yen 1,020,000,000. The balance, yen 427,667.884, will be carried forward to the credit of next account.

NAGATANI SOMA, Chairman.
Head Office, Yokohama, 10th March, 1904.

BALANCE-SHEET, 31st December, 1903.

	Yen.	Yen.
Capital paid up	18,000,000.000	
Reserve fund	9,210,000.000	
Reserve for doubtful debts	369,000.000	
Reserve for depreciation of Bank's premises, properties, furniture, &c.	607,245.000	
Reserve for silver funds	400,000.000	
Deposits (current, fixed, &c.)	72,871,351.656	
Bills payable, bills re-discounted, acceptances, and other sums due by the Bank	118,119,456.264	
Dividends unpaid	4,807.620	
Amount brought forward from last account	555,245.551	
Not profit for the past half-year	1,617,667.844	
	Yen 221,200,837.954	

	Yen.	Yen.
Cash account:—		
In hand	5,110,030.310	
At bankers	5,516,010.869	
Investments in public securities	10,458,041.170	
Bills discounted, loans, advances, &c.	22,113,436.033	
Bills receivable and other sums due to the Bank	61,662,455.110	
Bullion and foreign money	122,242,310.184	
Bank's premises, properties, furniture, &c.	529,676.220	
	1,775,883.195	
	Yen 221,200,837.954	

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

	Yen.	Yen.
To current expenses, interests, &c.	5,597,551.887	
To reserve fund	110,000,000	
To dividend—yen 6,000 per share for 120,000 old shares—yen 720,000,000; and yen 3,000 per share for 120,000 new shares—yen 360,000,000	1,080,000,000	
To balance carried forward to next account	427,667.844	
	Yen 7,215,219.731	
By balance brought forward 30th June, 1903	555,245.551	
By amount of gross profits for the half-year ending 31st December, 1903	6,659,974.170	
	Yen 7,215,219.731	

WEATHER REPORT.

The Hongkong Observatory yesterday issued the following report:—

On the 7th at 11.55 a.m. The barometer has risen in Japan and fallen at all other stations, but more particularly in the Yangtze valley.

A new depression exists to the south-west of Shanghai moving Eastward.

Gradients are slight on the China Coast and the monsoon is for the present interrupted. Light variable winds will prevail in the Formosa Channel and the northern part of the China Sea.

Forecast:—Light variable breezes; overcast misty.

HONGKONG BOARD

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held yesterday afternoon. Hon. Dr. J. M. Atkinson (President) presided, and there were also present Hon. P. N. Jones, (Vice-President), Hon. A. W. Brewin, Registrar-General, Mr. F. J. Badley, Captain Superintendent of Police, Mr. Lau Chu Pak, Colonel W. E. Webb, R.A.M.C., Mr. A. Ramjahn, Dr. W. W. Pearce, Medical Officer of Health, Dr. B. Barnett, Assistant Medical Officer of Health, and Mr. T. A. Hamner (Assistant Secretary).

APPOINTMENTS.

The President, pursuant to notice, moved— "That Donald John Mackenzie, Hubert John William Gidley, and Horace Julian Knight be appointed for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of the By-laws for the 'Prevention or Mitigation of Epidemic, Endemic or Contagious Disease,' subject to the approval of His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government. That Henry Thomas Jackman and Alfred Carter, Acting Sanitary Surveyors, and Horace Julian Knight, and Herbert Pearson be deputed by the Board under Section 30 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903, to institute summary proceedings before a Magistrate against any person contravening any of the By-laws duly made under Section 16 of the aforesaid Ordinance; and that the said Henry Thomas Jackman be authorised by the Board to issue certificates of occupation in respect of domestic buildings under Section 84 of Ordinance No. 13 of 1901. And further, that the said Henry Thomas Jackman, Alfred Carter, Horace Julian Knight, and Herbert Pearson be deputed by the Board under the provisions of Section 256 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903, to institute summary proceedings before a Magistrate for the recovery of any penalty imposed by Part II of the said Ordinance or by any By-laws made thereunder."

Mr. RUMJAHN seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

LIMEWASHING.

Further correspondence was laid on the table from Mr. Lau Chu Pak on the subject of lime-washing of houses, which matter he had brought up at the previous meeting.

Dr. Pearce intimated that he was unaware of any illegal requirements having been made in this direction, and asked Mr. Lau Chu Pak to give definite information in any such case, whereupon he would have the matter looked into.

SMALLPOX.

The President submitted a minute of the Medical Officer of Health, which bore that since 10th February there had been 22 cases of small-pox, of which 15 were found in the streets; and 6 of them were under 10 years of age. In view of this it would be as well, he said, to issue hand-bills advising people to be vaccinated, and especially to have their children vaccinated. He moved that the Board recommend that this be done. Attention might be drawn to the fact that daily free vaccination could be got at the Government Civil Hospital, Tung Wah Hospital, and Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals.

Colonel Webb seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

DEVELOPMENT OF MONGKOK DISTRICT.

In connection with an application for a licence to sell fish at 30, Station Street, Mongkok.

The Registrar-General intimated:—"There is a market at Tai-koktsui. If the Board thinks more market accommodation is necessary they ought to recommend the opening of a new market somewhere between Yau-mat and Tai-koktsui."

Mr. Ramjahn: "In consequence of the enforcement of the overcrowding sections, the removal of cubicles and other causes, Mongkok now becomes an attractive residential place for the poor, and as the market in Yau-mat is now the only place in the eastern part of the Kowloon peninsula where fish is sold, every inducement should be afforded to the residents, many of whom, I think, are displaced people from this side, in order that that part of the peninsula might develop more rapidly to house our population. I am in favour of granting this application."

The President stated that the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon reported that this shop was 500 yards from Yau-mat. The population of Mongkok was not very great, and he thought the market at Yau-mat could supply the demand.

Mr. RUMJAHN said that Yau-mat market was built 15 years ago, and it was inadequate to the needs of the present day. The population had increased four-fold and in comparison the market was very small. Encouragement should be given, he thought, to the displaced people from this side taking up residence in that part of the peninsula.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL thought that what was really wanted was a market, about the size of the Tai-koktsui Market, somewhere beyond Yau-mat.

The President said that as the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon stated the market accommodation at Yau-mat at present was sufficient for the districts, he moved that the application be refused.

Colonel Webb seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

RAT RETURN.

It was reported that during the fortnight ended 4th inst. 1,233 rats were killed.

As a Dundee (Scotland) lamplighter was walking along the shore road he heard the most extraordinary sounds, which proved to be coming from a stranded whale sixty feet long. With the aid of his father, who is an old whaler, and another person, he harpooned the monster with a harpoon, and finally killed it after several attacks.

SHORTHAND.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—I observe that Mr. Warwick Peelo advertises that he is prepared to teach Pitman's system of shorthand to any idiot (sic) who prefers a three years' study and ten times the expense of what he is pleased to call the "Up-to-date" system.

This is a silly attempt to disparage a system of shorthand that has survived dozens of others which have claimed superiority and is used by probably 99 per cent. of the shorthand writers in England.

To say that it will take three years for anyone to become a proficient writer of Pitman's shorthand is to put it mildly, misleading. I have no knowledge of what Mr. Peelo calls the "Up-to-date" system, but I should like to say that if any young man does not acquire a good knowledge of Pitman's shorthand in six months he must be sadly lacking in intelligence, if want of application is not the cause of his failure. He may not be able to write 160 words a minute at the end of that time, or even 100; but the principles of Pitman's system are sound and easily learnt. When these are once acquired speed is a matter of practice which depends upon the application and perseverance of the student, as must be the case with all systems of shorthand.

As a writer of Pitman's system, of many years' standing, I should like to state, *pour encourager les autres*, that it did not cost me three years of study nor nearly £50 sterling to learn the system. I took up the study at the age of 14. I had only two lessons from a teacher and continued to learn from the text books published by the Pitman Institute, devoting about an hour a day to it. I cannot remember precisely when I was able to regard myself as having "learnt shorthand," but I do recollect that at the age of 16 I was daily being required to utilise my knowledge in the office and could "take" and correctly transcribe discourses delivered at the rate of 120 words a minute.

I accomplished no feat. Many thousands of boys have done the like, and I write this merely in justice to the system Mr. Peelo is doing his utmost to disparage, but which in my opinion is the only system any boy should attempt to learn.—Yours, etc.

PHONOGRAPHER.

SUPREME COURT.

Thursday, 7th April.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR T. SERCOMBE SMITH (ACTING JUSTICE OF THE PEACE).

CLAIM FOR GOODS SOLD.

The I Lung Wo Ki firm sued the Tsang Ting Ki firm for \$254.93, being balance due for goods sold and delivered. Mr. O. D. Thomson, solicitor, appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. E. J. Grist, of Messrs. Wilkinson & Grist, solicitors, for the defendant.

Mr. Thomson stated that the case had been up before Mr. Justice Wise, who had granted an adjournment to permit of a possible settlement. There had been no settlement. Defendants admitted \$51.20, which they had paid into Court. The question was whether the party who ordered some of these goods had a right to order them on behalf of the firm. There were two partners in the firm at the time the goods were supplied, Chan Kau and Chan Ying. Sometimes one ordered the goods and sometimes the other. About the beginning of December the partnership had been dissolved. Chan Ying went to plaintiffs' shop and requested them to make out two bills, one against himself and one against Chan Kau, for the goods supplied. This was done. Since that date Chan Kau had absconded, and Chan Ying was now sole partner. There was no doubt that two cheques were used in ordering these goods; the point for decision would be whether those issued by Chan Kau were binding upon the firm.

The defence was that there had been no proof adduced that the goods in question had been supplied to the defendant firm, and if they had been supplied to Chan Kau the firm was not liable.

After hearing evidence, His Lordship gave judgment for the defendants on the case with costs, and judgment for the plaintiffs for \$51.20, with costs up till the time of that sum having been paid into Court.

SHIPPING NOTES.

The *Nanyang* arrived from Saigon yesterday with 1,400 tons of rice for the E.A.P. Co. The *Alcora* Jensen brought 3,000 tons of sugar for Messrs. Jensen & Co. The *Dugmar* 1,800 tons of rice from Saigon for Messrs. Melchers & Co. The *Asphio*, from Saigon, has 1,500 tons of rice; and the *Telemaque*, from Saigon, 2,000 tons of rice. Both shipments are consigned to Chinese. The *Cragoswald* has 4,800 tons of Welsh coal on board. She arrived from Cardiff yesterday. Arrivals report strong N.E. wind and rain.

STEAMER MOVEMENTS. The C.P.R. steamer *Empress of India* arrived at Kobe at 8 a.m. on the 6th inst., and left again at 2.30 p.m. same day, via Nagasaki for Shanghai, where she is due to arrive at 6 p.m. on the 9th inst.

The C.P.R. steamer *Empress of China* arrived at Kobe at 8 p.m. on the 5th inst., and left again at noon on the 6th inst. for Yokohama, where she was due to arrive at noon on the 7th inst.

The P.M. steamer *Korea*, which left Hongkong March 10th destined San Francisco, arrived at the latter point on April 6th. The steamer *Gregory Apsar*, from Calcutta, left Singapore for this port yesterday afternoon.

Thursday, 7th April.

BEFORE MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ (ACTING POLICE MAGISTRATE).

AN AMUSING CASE.

A rather amusing case came on for hearing. The complainant, a Chinaman, said that the defendant, his next-door neighbour, had stolen his fowl. When he missed the rooster he went to the defendant's house and asked him what he had in the pot on the fire. The defendant said he was cooking fish, but when complainant took up the lid he found his lost cock.

Inspector J. Williamson, who was conducting the case, told His Worship that he could not identify the pot, as it had been shifted, but he had a part of the fowl and the feathers.

The defendant said he did not steal the bird, but another man stole it and came into his house to cook it. This man had run away.

The complainant said his fowl was worth \$1, and the Inspector, holding up a fleshy leg, opined that as it must have weighed some five catties, it would be worth \$1.50.

Seven days' hard labour.

ALLEGED ARSON.

Two Chinamen were charged with arson with respect to a fire at No. 45, Gough Street, on the 20th ult. Mr. E. R. Hallifax, Deputy Superintendent of Police, prosecuted, and Mr. H. W. Looker, of Messrs. Deacon, Looker, and Deacon, appeared for the defence.

The first witness, a Chinaman, District Watchman No. 41, said that while on duty, at 4.45 a.m. on the 20th ult., he heard a whistle. Hurrying forward, he entered No. 45, Gough Street, where he saw three fires. He and two other men extinguished the fires. The fires were in a store-room containing straw hats and small pieces of fibre. By Mr. Looker, witness said that when he got to the house two men went in before him. He arrested the second defendant and handed him to a seaman while he went inside. The fire was put out by means of water from the yard and from upstairs.

P.C. 33, an European, gave evidence that he went with a helmsman named Wing Choy to No. 45, Gough Street, ground floor. They went into a back store-room where there were a large number of boxes, straw hats, and there were stacks of smouldering firewood by the boxes. Some of the boxes contained charcoal. At about 9 a.m. he arrested the first defendant at No. 45, Gough Street, and took him to the Central Police Station, and asked him where the books, etc., were. He answered that they were at his friend's house. He went with the man, who said he would show the house, accompanied by Watchman No. 41—the house pointed out was No. 121, Jervois Street. They entered the ground floor of the shop, and the watchman asked for the books, and a bundle, containing seven books and some clothes, was handed over.

Mr. H. A. Lammert, valuer, gave evidence that he valued the goods in the house in question on the 26th of March, finding goods which he valued at \$1,951.94.

Mr. M. Zamaguchig, insurance clerk of the Meiji Insurance Co., of which the Mitani Bussan Kaisha are the local agents, gave evidence that in respect of house 45, Gough Street, ground floor, insured merchandise was under the name of Man Tai on the 11th February for \$4,000, and again on the 12th March for \$4,000. The furniture of the house and fixtures were insured for \$500, and clothing for \$1,000.

Mr. V. C. de Rocha, insurance clerk of the Hamburg-Bremen Fire Insurance Co., of which Messrs. Carlowitz & Co. are agents, gave evidence that merchandise on the ground floor of No. 45, Gough Street, was insured under the name of Man Tai for \$4,000 on the 11th March.

A Sergeant-Interpreter translated extracts from the books taken from Jervois Street. From these it was learned that between the 28th January and 13th March of this year, stock brought amounted to \$14,263.70. A sales book, from 29th January to 18th March, showed a total of \$2,639.53 goods sold and cash received; while a credit sales book, 29th January to 18th March, showed sales to the amount of \$1,752.35.

After Mr. Looker had spoken on behalf of the defendants, His Worship said he was of opinion that the circumstantial evidence was strong enough to commit the defendants. He did so accordingly.

THE WELSH FUSILIERS' GOAT.

To the Market Square at Lichfield, on St. David's Day, the 1st March, the men of the 1st Battalion of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers marched in review order, and wearing dress tunics and leeks in their turbans. St. David's Day was commemorated by the decoration with a silver shield and chain of the new regimental goat—a present from the King's paddocks at Windsor—which took the place of the pet goat that died soon after the return of the regiment from South Africa. The shield, which was placed on the goat's neck by the Lady Mayress, was the gift of Lichfield citizens, who gladly contributed to mark their appreciation of the regiment's splendid service in South Africa. Colonel Sir Robert Colclahan, commanding officer, in acknowledging the gift, said that up to the year 1844 the regiment had provided its own goats as best it could, but in that year Queen Victoria directed that two of the finest goats belonging to a flock in Windsor Park, the gift of the Shah of Persia, should be given to the regiment, one to each battalion. Since that time the goat had been cherished by them, not only as an emblem of their mountainous country, to which they all, either by birth or adoption, belonged, and of whose ancient and martial traditions they were proud, but it had been regarded as a special mark of favour by the King, who had not only continued the same mark of favour, but had further honoured the regiment by the appointment of the Prince of Wales to be Colonel-in-Chief.

It will be remembered that the goat was a prominent feature in all parades, etc., of the E. W. F. who were lately our garrison in Hongkong.

Mr. Arnold White publishes in the *Naval and Military Record* a list of the results of prize-firing in the Royal Navy for 1903. He remarks that taxpayers will rejoice to see that the China squadron is at the top of the list. This is as it should be, but surely the menace of actual hostilities should not be required to spur the other squadrons to the attainment of a more meritorious standard. In the battleship section the leading places are occupied by the *Majestic* (Channel), total points, 80,449; *Albion* (China), 79,562; *Goliath* (China), 77,631; *Glory* (China), 72,752; *Bulwark* (Mediterranean), 68,053; and *Ocean* (China), 65,585. With regard to the battleship figures Mr. White says—"The contrast between the best and the worst ships continues to be deplorable. The *Sans Pareil* and the *Benbow* must surely require new blood somewhere on board, otherwise a figure of zero for their 10in. and 16.25 guns respectively could scarcely be recorded against them. Why should the *Majestic* and *Albion*—two flagships—come out at 80.4 and 79.56 respectively, against 14 for the *Sans Pareil*, and 11.6 for the *Benbow*? The *Benbow* and *Sans Pareil*, it may be remarked, both belonged to the Home squadron, which in 1903 covered itself with anything but glory. The battleship average was 31.45 points.

In the cruiser class the China squadron was not quite so prominent. The *Good Hope* headed the list with 97,264 points. The highest China station cruiser was the *Bluenose*, 8th, with 74,989. The *Talbot* was 9th, with 73,083; the *Gresley*, 11th, the *Argonaut* 12th; the *Pique* 18th; the *Amphitrite*, 21st; and the *Scylla*, 35th. The cruiser average was 51,635 points.

Among the remaining ships, the China squadron took 1st and 2nd places with the *Bramble*, 87.94 points, and the *Esperanza*, 71.818 points. The *Vesuvius* was 15th; the *Algerine* and *Rinaldo*, 18th and 19th respectively; the *Fearless*, 21st; the *Mutine*, *Rosario*, and *Britannia*, 35th, 36th, and 37th respectively; and the *Phoenix*, 49th. The average of points was 33.35.

Of the system of marking Mr. White says—"The 'Total Number of Points' is not clear to the lay mind—that is, to the taxpayer's. It is evidently based on the percentage of hits to misses, or of some similar and approximate method of determining the relative proficiency of ships' companies. It would be a great advantage if the standard of merit were quite intelligible, but the point is not important if the Department still wishes to keep up a little harmless mystery on a non-essential point. It would be far better, however, to be open and above board."

Mr. White says at the conclusion of his letter—"Britons will be proud of the *Bramble*, the *Good Hope*, the *Majestic*, and the *Albion*, and their names ought to be household words in homes where the cricket scores in county and colonial matches now absorb attention. But we are getting on."

SALARIES OF CROWN AGENTS.

The Crown Agents, their salaries, and their usefulness to the Colonies, are matters upon which many residents of Hongkong would like information. In the House of Lords last month the Earl of Portsmouth put a question which elicited some interesting statements.

The Duke of Marlborough, in reply said that there were three Crown Agents, one receiving £2,500, another £1,450, and the third £1,200. For railway and other business done through them a commission of 1 per cent. on all stores was received by them, while there were other commissions. Protectorates and Crown Colonies paid contributions for the general service of the Agents. The Crown Agents received no money from the Imperial Exchequer. The receipts of the Crown Agents' Office were made up of percentages on loans, and of fixed annual charges from the Colonies for work not covered by a special charge, and the payments were fixed salaries to the Crown Agents, the salaries of the staff and minor officials, and the maintenance of the Office itself. With reference to the allegation as to the inefficiency of the management of the Crown Agents, when complaints which were made last year, were carefully investigated they were found in each case to be without sufficient cause or justification.

Earl Grey pointed out that the noble Duke had no reference to the suggestion that there should be an impartial inquiry into the Crown Agents' methods of administering business, and, despite the eulogy of the noble Duke, he held that such an inquiry was desirable. In support of the suggestion he instanced the case of the steamer *Argosia*, which was obtained by Uganda by tender for £8,000, when the Crown Agents wanted £13,000 for it; and also the price of the rails of the Uganda Railway, as compared with the price paid for those of the Rhodesian Railway.

The Marquess of Lansdowne said he thought the Government had some cause of complaint with regard to this question of the Uganda Railway. During many weeks of last Session a question stood on the Paper in Earl Grey's name, and they came down to that House ready to answer it. But the matter was never brought on, and now, without any notice, he made a number of reckless statements which they would be perfectly ready to disprove if they were put on the notice Paper. The whole of the noble Lord's speech was an indictment of the Crown Agents. He (the Marquess of Lansdowne) did not say that the system was one which would not be capable of improvement, but there were no less than 44 Colonies and Protectorates which were concerned in business of this kind, and if there was not a central office of this description, they might find all these Colonies and Protectorates in the market at the same time, buying the same thing, and buying against each other.

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Hongkong, 10th March, 1904.

MEN OF THE HOUR.

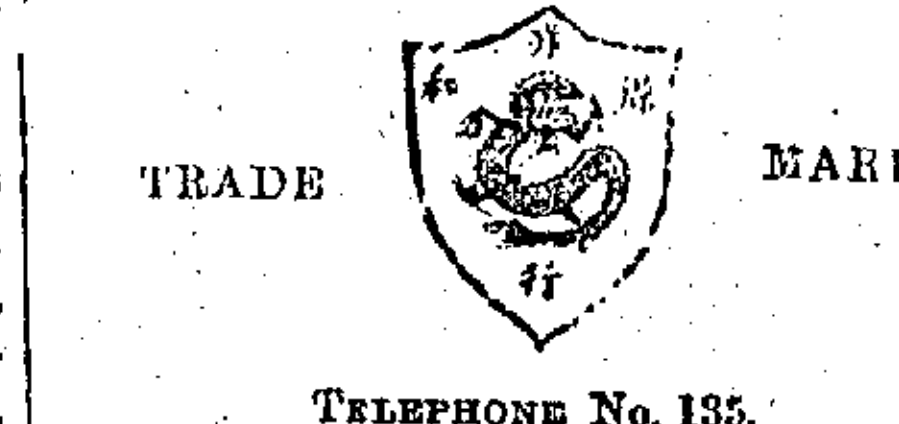
VICEROY ALEXIEFF AGAIN.

We gave recently a sketch of Admiral Alexieff, "Vicerey of the Far East," who more than any man is responsible for the Russo-Japanese war. A little more light on this remarkable man, however, will not be unwelcome, we imagine. In the March number of the *Contemporary Review* Dr. E. J. Dillon, in the course of an article on "Japan and Russia" has a good deal to say about the Vicerey.

"Evgheny Ivanovitch Alexieff," says Dr. Dillon—and we preserve his spelling of the names—"is a naval officer of thirty-four years' standing, having been born in 1843 of an Armenian father and a Russian mother. It is worthy of note that at several critical periods of Russia's history during the past quarter of a century Armenians have played important parts in navigating the ship of State. The names of Loris Melikoff, who drew up a Constitution at the close of the reign of Alexander II., and of Delyanoff, who changed radically and for the worse the whole system of Russian education, are two illustrations of the influence wielded by Armenians in the service of Russia. Alexieff's father was manager of the estates in Southern Russia of Count Mordvinoff, whose family was never without a representative in the Russian Navy and whose influence was instrumental in determining young Alexieff to enter the naval school in St. Petersburg. If the severe rule which at present obtains there, excluding all but the sons of noblemen from admission to that establishment, had existed in those days the boy would have had to choose some other career; for he was not a member of the nobility. As it was, he passed through all the classes with credit, but without notably distinguishing himself from his comrades in arduous but dreams of future glory. He loved to build castles in the air and imagine himself Admiral, Minister of the Marine, and a second Korniloff. In this respect he differed very sensibly from his brother, a modest and retiring youth, who is still living as a simple officer of the reserve in the provinces. Their mother resides in the Government of Poltava in southern Russia.

"Several years ago, when fears were entertained of a conflict between Russia and England, Alexieff was sent to the United States to take over one of the armed cruisers hurriedly bought in the United States—the *Africa*. While in America he improved his knowledge of the English tongue and made several friends, for like the majority of Russian naval officers he is a frank, good-humoured seaman and at the same time a perfect gentleman. His first ship, the *Africa*, whose engines are above the water-line and which is, therefore, not very formidable, was kept in apple-pie order, for Alexieff is a most strict disciplinarian, who insists on his men discharging every title of their duties. No fault of theirs ever escapes him, no dereliction of duty is left unpunished. Hence his men hold him in awe. But he is indulgent and lenient in other respects, and ever ready to allow for those little weaknesses which cannot be eradicated yet do not constitute an impediment to efficiency. Thus he entered into the spirit of his men, introduced interesting games, offered prizes to the winners, and thus kept many of them from indulging too freely in vodka. At the same time he was popular with his brother commanders, and thus wielded a desirable and effective influence over all who came within his sphere. An instance of this took place shortly after he became Governor of the Kwantung District. Under his predecessor a feeling of unpleasantness had arisen between soldiers and blue-jackets which seemed likely to lead to serious results if not quickly neutralized. Alexieff summoned the officers of each service, spoke plainly to them on the subject, and gave them peremptory instructions how to deal with the growing discord. He also talked with the men and made it plain to them that Draconian measures would be enforced against peace-breakers, and within a month after his interference peace and concord reigned between both branches of the service. But all who have ever served under Alexieff speak of him as a strict disciplinarian and a man noted for his severe measures.

"Thorough self-mastery is, I should say, Alexieff's most characteristic quality," continues Dr. Dillon. "He is gifted with an Oriental's power of repressing his emotions and restraining his tongue, possesses a sort of psychical accumulator where he can pen up passionate feelings for any length of time and continue his daily work as if serenely and satisfaction were the elements of his soul. But when the seasonable hour for action has struck, he can speak in a voice of thunder and make a backsliding subaltern tremble. Words then flow as a torrent. He is, likewise, very quick of apprehension, capable of grasping a situation at a glance and of taking a resolution at a moment's notice. His resourcefulness in times of unforeseen emergencies is also highly praised by his fellow officers, men who have served both under and over him, but its scope has always been limited to his own limited sphere. "His elevation to the highest post in the Russian Empire arose from his acquaintance with M. Bezobrazoff, in whose personal and curious views on the Far Eastern Question and on



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Hongkong, 4th October, 1903. [28]

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"KOREA CHRONICLE" OFFICE, Kobe;
"DAILY PRESS" OFFICE, Hongkong, and at
the London Office, 131, Fleet Street.
Hongkong, 12th December, 1903.

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THE KOWLOON LAND AND BUILDING COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an
EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL
MEETING of the KOWLOON LAND
AND BUILDING COMPANY, LIMITED,
will be held at No. 5, Queen's Road Central,
Victoria, in the Colony of Hongkong, TO-
MORROW, the 9th day of April, 1904, at 12
o'clock Noon, when the subjoined resolutions will
be proposed:
That the Articles of Association be altered
in manner following:—
(a) In Article 81 the words "Five hundred
dollars" shall be substituted for the words
"One hundred and fifty dollars."
(b) In Article 102 the words "An Auditor" shall
be substituted for the words "Two
Auditors."
(c) In Article 108 the word "Auditor" shall
be substituted for the word "Auditors."
Should these resolutions be passed by the
required majority they will be submitted for
confirmation as special resolutions to a Second
Extraordinary Meeting which shall be sub-
sequently convened.
Dated the 28th March, 1904.
A. SHELTON HOOVER,
Secretary to
THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT AND
AGENCY COMPANY, LIMITED,
General Agents for
THE KOWLOON LAND AND BUILDING
COMPANY, LIMITED.
[892]

THE CHINA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE CERTIFICATE No. 997 dated 25th
August, 1884, of the Five Shares Nos.
14181/14185 in this Company, standing in the
name of Mr. MOK SE YEONG, of Hong-
kong, has been LOST, and if at the expiration
of One Month from the date hereof the above
document be not forthcoming, another Certi-
ficate will be issued by the Company; and
thereafter no other will be acknowledged.
Dated 4th April, 1904.
C. PEMBERTON,
Acting Secretary.
Hongkong, 4th April, 1904. [934]

HONGKONG GYMKHANA CLUB.

PROGRAMME
OF
THE FIRST MEETING
TO BE HELD AT THE HAPPY VALLEY,
ON
SATURDAY, 23rd APRIL, 1904.

4 p.m. 1. THE GRANTHAM CUP.—Presented
by Hart Buck, Esq. For all subscription
graffins of any season that have never won
an official race. Weight for inches as per
scale. Unplaced runners allowed 5 lbs.
Jockeys that have won an official race in
Hongkong or China 2 lbs. extra; non-
winning Jockeys allowed 5 lbs. Entrance \$5.
5 Furlongs.
4.20 p.m. 2. THE EAST POINT CUP.—Pre-
sented by the Hon. C. W. Dickinson. For all
China Ponies weight for inches as per scale.
Winners of an open race or open graffins race
5 lbs. extra; non-winning subscription graffins
allowed 5 lbs. Jockeys penalties and allow-
ances as per Race No. 1. Entrance \$5.
From the two mile post once round and in.
4.40 p.m. 3. THE "LOHIAN" CUP.—Presented
by G. C. C. Master, Esq. Hurdle race.
For all China Ponies. Weight 11 stone.
Jockeys penalties and allowances as per Race
No. 1, but winners of a hurdle race or
steepchase on an off day at Shanghai or
Hongkong to be treated as winning Jockeys.
Entrance \$5. From the grand stand, twice
round and in.
5 p.m. 4. THE GYMKHANA CLUB CHALLENGE
CUP.—Value \$— (not less than \$200). For
all China Ponies. Weight for inches as per
scale. Penalties and allowances as per Race
No. 2. Jockeys penalties and allowances as
per Race No. 1. To be won by the pony
scoring most marks in the races for the Cup
by the end of the Club's season, counting 4
for a first, 2 for a second and 1 for a third.
The benefit of marks already scored to pass
with the pony on a sale. Any winner of the
race to carry 5 lbs. extra for each win in sub-
sequent starts for the Cup; penalties accumu-
lative up to 15 lbs. Five to start or no race.
Entrance \$5 to go in the purchase of a
memento to the winner of each race. One
mile.
5.30 p.m. 5. THE "PRIMROSE" CUP.—For all
China Ponies that have won no flat race of any
description since the 1st January 1904.
Weight for inches as per scale. To be ridden
by Jockeys that have not won an official race
in Hongkong or China. Entrance \$5. Half
mile.
Entries (which must state the name, owner,
height and colour of ponies entered, and be
accompanied by the necessary fees) also to the
Honorary Secretary at the Hongkong Club at
6 p.m. on Wednesday the 13th April, 1904.
The Committee reserve the right to declare
off any race for which there are not at least five
entries and three starters.
Attention is drawn to the rules of the Club
providing that (a) No person shall be a member
of the Club unless he is a member of the Hong-
kong Jockey Club. (b) All members of the
Hongkong Jockey Club shall be eligible for
election without ballot; and (c) No person unless
he is a member of this Club shall be eligible to
ride or run any pony at any Gymkhana meeting.
Notice of intended membership should be sent
to the undersigned.
F. B. DEACON,
Honorary Secretary and Treasurer.
Hongkong, 4th April 1904. [936]

HIRANO WATER.
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Hongkong, 31st July, 1903. [44]

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[3496]

BY X. Y. Z.
At the Hongkong Chess Club on Wednesday
last Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., gave an exhibition
of simultaneous chess, meeting five opponents.
The single player made a score of 2½, beating
Messrs. Polking and Cooper, losing to Messrs.
Dastur and Newborn, and drawing with Mr.
Fallon. This is Mr. Pollock's first attempt to
play so many games simultaneously; and, con-
sidering the strength of his opponents, the
result should be very satisfactory to him.

After the conclusion of the Monte Carlo
tournament (which, as we noted last week,
ended with the three first places filled by
Maroczy, 7½; Schlechter, 7; and Marshall,
6½), a Rice Gambit tournament was commenced.
This competition has ended thus:—Swiderski
and Marshall, 6 points each; Mieses, 5½; Marco,
5; Schve, 4½; and Fleishmann, 3. The first prize
amounted to 1,000 francs, the second to 700, the
third to 500, and the fourth to 300. Marshall
being unwell, the tie for first and second prizes
was not played off, the money being divided.

Mr. T. Lawrence, the City of London Chess
Club expert, and nearly the best English
amateur, has been invited to take part in the
forthcoming tournament at Cambridge Springs.
U.S. In default of Mr. H. E. Atkins, Mr.
Lawrence will well represent England.

On the 27th February last a 50-board match
between the two great London chess clubs, the
City of London and the Metropolitan, ended in
a victory for the City by 31 to 17. Mr. H. E.
Atkins unfortunately could not play, but other-
wise most of the best London and many leading
provincial amateurs took part in the contest.

SCIENTIFIC MISCELLANY.

**AUTOMOBILING, DISEASE—COFFEE WITHOUT
CAFFEINE—PIGMENTS FROM WASTE VAPOUR
—HOW THE BODY STARVES—VOICES OF THE
AIR—SPEECH OF THE CLOCK—THE WORLD
IN A DRYING-UP STAGE—USEFUL ALLOYS—
SUPPLANTING CHIMNEYS.**

Conjunctivitis, due to friction of the wind
and chilling of the eyeball, is noted in America
as a fairly common result of fast riding. French
and German physicians, however, report that
all automobiling diseases are the result of ner-
vous excitement, and the cases are sufficiently
numerous to attract much attention. A typical
record describes a patient who was affected only
on long journeys. No disease except brain
disturbance then appeared, but the fourth day
of travel invariably brought pain in the stomach,
with general nervousness, followed by a chill.
There was also palpitation of the heart with
an overwhelming fear of sudden death.

Coffee-berries have been credited with an
average of about 1 per cent. of caffeine, but
Bertrand, a French chemist, shows that the
proportion varies in the berries of different coun-
tries and also in those of other species than
Coffea arabica. In *C. canephora*, which is
richest in alkaloid, the percentage is 1.97. *C.
humblotiana* berries are remarkable for contain-
ing a bitter principle, cafamarin, but no caffeine
at all; and those of *C. mauritiana* have only
0.07 per cent. These two species offer the most
satisfactory coffee free from caffeine.

By a new method, pigments of metallic oxides
are produced by burning in special flues the
waste vapours from electric reduction furnaces.
The varying mixtures from different ores give
a great variety of colours, waste is avoided, and
the products are in extremely fine powder with-
out grinding.

Physiological radiations, probably N rays,
have been transmitted by A. Charpentier along
a wire. This offers the physiologist means for
a more precise study of such rays.

The phenomena of starvation have been a
subject of study by Vanlair, a Belgian physio-
logist. The fasting person is at first tautalised
by recollections of flavours and aromas,
and the call for food is soon emphasised by
rumbling in the intestines, painful spasms of
the stomach, and dizziness. The activity of the
brain diminishes, the hands tremble, the limbs
shake, and muscular weakness becomes excessive.
The heart soon beats faster and lighter. Body
weight diminishes, the fat cells being first
affected, then the liver, muscles, blood, intestines,
and bones, but the heart and nervous centre
suffer little until near the end. The lessening
of bodily activities brings a rapid fall of tem-
perature. As death draws near, the face
becomes ashy, the eyes are fixed, muscular
feebleness is extreme, and the legs are swollen
and covered with blotches. The scene closes in
an unreal world of hallucinations.

Weird sounds of atmospheric disturbances—
unlike the ordinary telegraphic and inductive
disturbances—have been noticed by Mr. J. E.
Taylor, a British electrician, during experiments
in wireless telegraphy. They are more frequent
in summer than in winter, most in evidence for
a few hours about sunset, and often precede a
storm or gale. They resemble the flowing and
babbling of water, though there are also crack-
lings and screaming like rocket discharges.
The latter are attributed to the electric currents
set up by the fall of meteors, and the other
noises are supposed to be connected with the
ionisation of the air, disturbances being caused
when the ionisation is dissipated by an electric
field.

The "tick-tock" that is universally regarded
as the sound of both pendulum and spring clocks
has been investigated by Dr. Rosenbach, a
Berlin psychologist. He finds that the "tick"
results when the right arm of the escapement
anchor strikes a cog of the wheel moving up.

different conditions give different acoustic
effects.

A new field of investigation has been opened
up by Prince Kropotkin. He finds evidence in
Central Asia that the whole vast region has
been steadily drying up since the first historical
records, and the evaporation now greatly exceeds
precipitation, with the result that the deserts
are rapidly extending, while life and agriculture
are possible only near the rain-making moun-
tains. The destruction of forests is insufficient
to account for the drying-up of lake systems
and rivers. He concludes that the desicca-
tion going on over the whole surface of Europe
and Asia, more especially in the northern and
more elevated portions, has continued since the
Glacial epoch, and that we are living in a
geological epoch as marked by desiccation
as was the Glacial epoch by accumulating
precipitation. Tree-planting on a large scale
and the sinking of artesian wells are suggested
as means of combatting the coming drought.

Of Dr. Guillaume's remarkable iron and
nickel alloys, two are being manufactured.
"Invar" contains 37 per cent. of nickel, and is
practically unalterable in length at any atmo-
spheric temperature. It is finding use for
standard measuring bars and wires and for the
pendulum-rods of astronomical clocks and the
compensation balances of chronometers.
"Platinite," containing 46 per cent. of nickel,
has the same expansion as glass, and may take
the place of platinum for incandescent electric
lamps.

Mugna's smoke-washing apparatus, now being
tested in London, is claimed to make chimneys
unnecessary. It consists of an electrically-
driven fan drawing the smoke from the fire and
passing it into a stream of water, which extracts
the sulphurous vapour and unburned particles.
The working cost is a little more than one per
cent. of the cost of the fuel.

Butter has been found by T. E. Thorpe to be
influenced by climate, fodder, breed of cow,
period of lactation, and idiosyncrasy of the
individual cow.

TOO MUCH FOR ONE MAN.

There is no art of which it is more difficult to
obtain a complete mastery than the healing art,
human ailments being so many and complicated.
But that which taxes the physician's skill most
is what is called *diagnosis*, the finding out
exactly what it is that troubles the patient. In
many cases this is a more difficult task than the
proper treatment. Nothing is more common
than for people to be ill, yet quite unable to say
what is the matter with them. When the
patient notes his own symptoms, and can state
them intelligently, his case is greatly simplified,
though even that will not always ensure correct
treatment. The people who have died from
being treated for one disease while suffering
from another are legion; to take one celebrated
instance only, such was the fate of Italy's
greatest painter, Raphael.
"And how did you get on with the doctor,
Patrick?" a man once asked his friend.
"Faith, Michael," was the reply, "I just gave
him three-and-sixpence, and told him in English
what was the matter with me. Then the doctor
told me the same thing in Latin; and that was
the end of the business."

Such a result as this is not uncommon, but it
is unsatisfactory. Whoever seeks the aid of
medicine does so in the hope of finding a cure,
and though many are grievously disappointed in
their quest, they can have no other object.
The fact is, the field of study is too vast for
any man, however great his ability, to master
the cause and cure of all human ailments, as
physicians are supposed to do. Hence arises
specialisation, so that one doctor is said to be
an authority on the eye, another on the ear, and so
on. Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup will not
cure every ill; it will not make the blind to see,
nor the deaf to hear; but it cures, absolutely
cures, indigestion, and the long list of com-
plaints that accompany, or arise out of, that
widespread malady. Here are a few details of
an interesting case, that of Mr. Charles Zotti,
of Eufate Cote, Oxford Street, East London.
Writing on 4th of December, 1903, to Messrs.
A. J. White (Colonial), Ltd., corner of Princes
and Diesel Streets, Port Elizabeth, Cape
 Colony, he writes: "I am a sufferer from
Seigel's Curative Syrup. Mr. Zotti says:
"When in England two years ago I suffered
great agony from acute indigestion. I tried a
large number of medicines supposed to be cures
for this complaint, but received not the least
benefit from any of them. Certainly, it was
not from any want of perseverance on my part
that they failed. I was despairing of relief
when one day a friend recommended me to take
a course of Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup,
which he asserted had an unequalled record for
the cure of cases such as mine. I accepted his
advice (though without any great expectations
of good from it) and was most agreeably
surprised to discover a marked improvement in
my condition result from the very first bottle.
Thus encouraged to persevere with its use, I did
not neglect to continue to take it when I came
to this country. Now my digestion is as good
as anybody's could be—thanks to Mother
Seigel's Curative Syrup, a medicine that I
never fail to recommend whenever opportunity
offers, for it gives me genuine pleasure to do so.
I am deeply grateful for the very real benefit I
have derived from that extraordinary remedy."

Mr. Zotti's experience is shared by many
thousands of men and women in every part of
the world. With testimony such as Mr. Zotti
volunteers, volumes might be filled; but it is
needless. There is nothing people remember
more vividly, or with keener appreciation, than
what has rescued them from physical pain and
mental depression, two inseparable evils com-
bined in indigestion. [93]

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Latest and most Sanitary equipment. Electric Lights and Call Bells. Elegantly
Furnished Rooms. Coolest Dining Room in Manila.
RESTAURANT
Handsomely decorated. Cool and pleasant. Best of attendance. Private dining
rooms for parties. Only the best of wines and liquors. Under the direction of Mr.
and Mrs. Newirth.
BAR
Under the direction of American mixologist. Anything you want served promptly
and pleasantly.
BILLIARD ROOM
Thoroughly modern and up-to-date. Brunswick-Balke tables. Export Markers in
attendance.
STABLES.
Fine turnouts for the guests of the hotel. Elegant rubber-tired carriages for
horses, good coachmen. The New Oriental Hotel is now open for inspection.

SIMON SCHNEER & CO.,
PROPRIETORS. [266]

JAPAN COALS.

HEAD OFFICE—1, SURUGA-CHO, TOKYO.
LONDON BRANCH—34, LIME STREET, E.C.
HONGKONG BRANCH—PRINCE'S BUILDINGS, 105, HOUSE STREET

OTHER BRANCHES:
New York, San Francisco, Hamburg, Bombay, Singapore, Sourabaya, Manila, Amoy, Shanghai,
Chefoo, Tientsin, Newchwang, Port Arthur, Seoul, Chemoipo, Yokohama, Yokosuka,
Nagoya, Osaka, Kobe, Kure, Shimonoeki, Moji, Wakamatsu, Karatsu, Nagasaki,
Kuchinotsu, Sasebo, Maidzumi Miki, Hakodate, Taipeh, &c.
Telegraphic Address: "MITSUI" (A.B.C. and A 1 Codes)

CONTRACTORS OF COAL to the Imperial Japanese Navy and Armaments and the State
Railways; Principal Railway Companies and Industrial Works; Home and Foreign Mail
and Freight Steamers.
SOLE PROPRIETORS of the Famous Mito, Tagawa, Yamano and Ida Coal Mines; and
SOLE AGENTS for Hokoku, Honda, Kanada, Fujiyama, Mameda, Mannoura, Onoura Otsuji,
Sasahara, Teisakuro, Yoshinotani, Yoshio, Yunkikara, and other Coals.
N. INUZUKA, Manager. Hongkong

INSURANCES

**THE WESTERN ASSURANCE COM-
PANY OF TORONTO, CANADA.**
INCORPORATED 1851.
Cash Security ... £25,719
Total Losses Paid ... £2,785,240

THE Undersigned having been appointed
AGENTS for the above Company, are
prepared to ACCEPT RISKS against FIRE
at Current Rates.
WM. MEYERINK & CO.
Hongkong, 18th May, 1903. [194]

NORTHERN ASSURANCE CO
FIRE and LIFE.
ESTABLISHED 1896.

THE Undersigned are prepared to accept
First Class Foreign and Chinese RISKS
against FIRE at Current Rates.
Also to accept proposals for LIFE ASSUR-
ANCE. Prospectuses on application.
TURNER & CO.,
Agents.
Hongkong, 23rd September, 1903. [267]

**THE WESTERN ASSURANCE
COMPANY OF TORONTO
AND LONDON.**
INCORPORATED A.D. 1851.
MARINE BRANCH.

THE Undersigned having been appointed
AGENTS for the above are prepared to
accept risks at current rates.
ALEX. ROSS & CO.
Hongkong, 19th March, 1904 [1784]

**NORTH BRITISH AND MERICAN
TILE INSURANCE COMPANY.**
TOTAL FUNDS at 31st DECEMBER, 1902
£16,378,771.

I. AUTHORIZED CAPITAL... £3,000,000 0 0
SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL... 2,750,000 0 0
PAID-UP CAPITAL... 637,500 0 0
II. FIRE FUNDS... 2,867,215 14 10

The Undersigned AGENTS for the above
Company, are prepared to ACCEPT RISKS
against FIRE at Current Rates.
SHEWAN, TOMES & CO.,
Agents.
Hongkong, 19th June, 1903. [188]

**THE BOMBAY FIRE AND MARINE
INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.**

THE Undersigned, having been appointed
AGENTS for the above Company, are
prepared to accept RISKS at Current Rates.
HOLLAND-CHINA TRADING CO.
Hongkong, 26th November, 1903. [12160]

**UNION OF PALESTINE INSURANCE
COMPANY, LIMITED.**

THE Undersigned having been appointed
AGENTS for the above Company are
prepared to accept Risks against Fire at current
rates.
SIEMSEN & CO.
Hongkong, 1st January, 1904. [1]

**AACHEN AND MUNICH FIRE IN-
SURANCE CO.**
OF AIX-LE-CHAPPELL.

THE Undersigned, having been appointed
AGENTS for the above Company, are
prepared to ACCEPT RISKS against FIRE
at Current Rates.
REUTER, BRÜCKELMANN & CO.,
Agents.
Hongkong, 21st April, 1897. [199]

PHENIX FIRE OFFICE.
The Undersigned are now prepared to
GRANT POLICIES of INSURANCE
against FIRE at Current Rates.
DOUGLAS LAFRAIK & CO.
Agents for the Phoenix Fire Office
Hongkong, 17th August, 1887. [29]

**THE AMERICAN SYSTEM
OF DENTISTRY.**
DR. M. H. CHAUN,
21, DES VOUEX ROAD CENTRAL HONGKONG
From the University of Pennsylvania, U.S.A.
Hongkong, 10th March, 1903. [64]

